

Snyder, who continues to show us exactly what servant leadership should look like by striving to make our community a better place to call home.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SEABEES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere appreciation and deep respect that I recognize the 75th Anniversary of the United States Navy's military construction force, the Seabees. For their contributions to our military and to countless individuals throughout the world, as well as their courage while facing danger head on, these brave and skilled service members are to be commended.

In December 1941, following the tragic events at Pearl Harbor, the United States Navy recognized the need for the presence of construction battalions on our nation's coasts. It was from this realization that the Seabees came to be. The earliest Seabees, who served under the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps, were recruited with an emphasis on their skills in the construction trades, but due to the dangerous situations they would encounter, these men, who averaged 37 years of age, also needed to be ready and able to fight.

Since World War II, the Seabees have put themselves in harm's way while performing construction projects to aid their fellow service members, as well as civilians affected by both war and natural disasters. In World War II alone, more than 325,000 Seabees served on six continents and were tasked with everything from the construction of airstrips, bridges, and roads to the building of hospitals, warehouses, and an incredible number of huts to house more than 1.5 million military members. During the Korean War, the Seabees were called upon to address a problem that was thought to be impossible. These skilled men managed to cut a mountain in half to make a runway at Cubi Point, located in the Philippines, while constructing a much-needed naval air station in the region. Throughout the war in Vietnam, the Seabees remained active in the construction of bridges, roads, and aircraft facilities while also providing much support to the people of Vietnam through the building of wells, schools, hospitals, and utilities. They also shared their expert knowledge and skills to train the Vietnamese people toward self-sufficiency. Efforts to support construction needs for the military and in supporting those affected by war have continued throughout the Persian Gulf War as well as in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Seabees have also been called upon time and time again to provide much needed assistance, both within our borders and beyond, during times of crisis and devastation. From Hurricane Camille in 1969, to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, to the 2010 and 2011 disastrous earthquakes and tsunami that rocked Haiti and Japan, and many times in between, the Seabees have courageously put themselves in danger while working on rescue and cleanup efforts, as well as the vast rebuilding needed in these dire situations. They have been instrumental in rebuilding roads, housing,

and the critical ports that were required for humanitarian supplies to reach these countries. In many of these instances, without the skilled and dedicated efforts of the Seabees, the outcomes would have been much worse for many more people.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the many dedicated Seabees who have served our nation for the past 75 years. They represent an important part of the United States Military, and are a true example of unwavering patriotism. Let us never forget the service, sacrifice, and contributions they made and continue to make on behalf of our nation, their fellow service members, and those in need throughout the world.

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY FERRERI

HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Anthony Ferreri for his enduring devotion to serving others in need.

A lifelong Staten Islander, Anthony has been at the forefront of providing quality hospital care. President and CEO of Staten Island University Hospital since 2003, he has overseen the hospital's growth with the addition of the Elizabeth A. Connelly Emergency and Trauma Center in 2009 and the Regina M. McGinn, MD Education Center in 2011. This dedication led *Modern HealthCare Magazine* to award Anthony its Community Leadership Award.

In 2013, after being named as Executive Director of the North Shore—LIJ Health System's Western Region, Anthony Ferreri was then appointed the Executive Vice President just two years later. With his new position came additional duties, as he also became the System's Chief Affiliation Officer and Regional Executive Director for Westchester County. His established track record of effective partnerships with area hospitals and medical centers made him an ideal choice for this position, at which he excelled.

Anthony has also proven himself a steadfast servant to his community. He has served numerous nonprofit boards, among them the Friends of May Chang Foundation, New York Organ Donor Network, and the Snug Harbor Cultural Center. Furthermore, he is the Chairman of the Board of Staten Island's Moore Catholic High School. He has been recognized on multiple occasions for his community service. One such example is that he was only the 12th graduate of New Dorp High School to be inducted into its Hall of Fame. Moreover, he was also awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Anthony Ferreri has spent his life serving his community and providing quality care to hospital patients. I thank him for his lifetime of work and I wish him the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST INDIANA'S NEWLY NATURALIZED CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate twenty-five individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on Friday, March 10, 2017. This memorable occasion, presided over by Judge Philip P. Simon, will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America, that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On March 10, 2017, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Arturo Abel Diaz Pena, Lakshmi Sowmya Koppineedi, Abel Ruiz Romero, Pierre Remon Halteh, Dayanara Calix, Vanessa Yalen Cardenas, Carlos Alberto Uribe Schiaffino, Mohammad Abdelqader, Anna Broda-Stephens, Alicia Castaneda, Amilcar Chavez, Lupita Cortes, Nancy Nasilele Imasiku, Paulina Landeros Salazar, Mi Young Youn, Jay Joohyoung Lee, Xinyu Kevin Liu, Roberto Martinez, Ishaq Mohammed, Mercy Dickson Mtika-Nyirenda, Maria Pacheco, Antonia Roman, Luis Alberto Salas, Maria de Lourdes Sanchez de Flores, and Jacob James Yang.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on March 10, 2017. They, too, will be American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MR. M. WAYNE HUTTON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mr. M. Wayne Hutton. After more than 30 years of serving in law enforcement, Mr. Hutton is retiring as Supervising District Attorney Investigator in Merced. Mr. Hutton's service to the community has earned him recognition among law enforcement officials throughout the San Joaquin Valley and California. He has undoubtedly paved a legacy in public service within our community.

Mr. Hutton's career is characterized by a strong work ethic and a passion for justice. Mr. Hutton began his law enforcement career as a Special Agent in the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations. During his time as a Special Agent, Mr. Hutton was honored and awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal, four Achievement Medals, and the National Defense Medal. He then went on to serve as a Deputy Sheriff in the Merced County Sheriff's Department. He received a Sheriff's Commendation for implementing the first Citizen's Law Enforcement Academy as well as his display of tactical action during a suicide attempt by a citizen. Mr. Hutton also received recognition for his work in the area of domestic violence and was praised by the Senate of the State of California.

Mr. Hutton later served as an Investigator for the District Attorney in Merced County. During his tenure, Mr. Hutton has conducted numerous felony investigations and other high profile major white collar fraud cases. Due to his outstanding work, he was then promoted to Supervising Investigator. Mr. Hutton wrote the Policy and Procedures Manual for the Bureau of Investigation and conducted numerous embezzlement and white collar crime investigations, which included a case that involved a record \$1.4 million loss.

Mr. Hutton's decision to become an adjunct instructor at Merced College is another example of his devoted service to the community. Mr. Hutton taught the next generation of law enforcement the skills necessary to write reports and do complete criminal investigations. He has instructed over 300 cadets in the State of California's Peace Officer Standards and Training approved Reserve Peace Officer Training Courses.

Many are saddened by Mr. Hutton's retirement, but his achievements and years of service will not be forgotten. He has been a part of the law enforcement community for 31 years, and it is my hope that his career will inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career and achievement of Mr. M. Wayne Hutton. Mr. Hutton has proven to be an inspiring and hardworking individual for Merced County, and I am confident he will continue to demonstrate his passion for public service in the next chapter of his life.

HONORING JUSTICE ROBERT RUCKER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to honor a dear friend and one of Indiana's finest citizens, Indiana Supreme Court Justice Robert Rucker, and to wish him well upon his retirement. Throughout his many years of public service, Justice Rucker has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of his fellow Hoosiers. After nearly two decades on the Indiana Supreme Court, Justice Rucker will be retiring this spring. He has left an indelible mark as an outstanding public servant, and for this, he is worthy of the highest praise.

Justice Rucker grew up in Gary, Indiana, and graduated from Gary Roosevelt High School. Before embarking on his legal career, Justice Rucker, a decorated veteran of the United States Army, honorably served his country during the Vietnam War. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Indiana University in 1974 before completing the Juris Doctor at the Valparaiso University School of Law in 1976. A devoted legal scholar, Justice Rucker has also earned a Master of Laws degree in the judicial process from the University of Virginia School of Law.

In 1991, following many remarkable years of service to the Northwest Indiana community, Justice Rucker was appointed to the Indiana Court of Appeals by Governor Evan Bayh, becoming the first African American to serve on an Indiana appellate court. In 1999, he was appointed by Governor Frank O'Bannon to the Indiana Supreme Court. Throughout his illustrious judicial career, he has authored more than 1,200 civil and criminal opinions. He has served on numerous boards and committees including the Indiana Commission for Continuing Legal Education, Indiana Trial Lawyers Association, Northwest Indiana Legal Services Organization, and the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association.

Justice Rucker's colleagues could not hold him in higher esteem, stating that "His work stands as a powerful illustration of the guidance courts provide for the peaceful resolution of disputes encompassing nearly every facet of Hoosier life." They have said that what is most admirable about him is his commitment to seek equality for all people. "He always had the courage and fortitude to protect the rights of all, regardless of their state in life. He has the ability to stand in the shoes of any person and understand their plight." For his lifetime of leadership and his truly inspiring career in public service, Justice Rucker is to be commended.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring an outstanding servant of the public for his lifetime of service to the people of Indiana and to wish him well upon his retirement. His continuous effort to improve the quality of life for all Hoosiers is truly admirable, and we have been blessed to have had his presence in the judiciary for so long. Justice Rucker's legacy will endure as a source of pride for the First Congressional District, and his selfless service is to be emulated and admired.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on March 1, 2017, I missed one recorded vote on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 121.

RECOGNIZING PURDUE UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this time to recognize Purdue University Northwest as the college celebrates the first anniversary of Founders Day, which took place on March 6, 2017. The successful unification of two college campuses into a single university led to the creation of Purdue University Northwest, which is one of the first educational mergers in Indiana. The merger creates more choices for students, promotes a regional identity, and contributes to economic development in Northwest Indiana.

In recognition of this day, we honor and commend the outstanding contributions Purdue University Northwest has made to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond. A comprehensive regional university, Purdue Northwest offers award winning undergraduate and master's degree programs, a nursing practice doctorate, a full athletic program, student housing, international student programs, and innovative research centers and institutes. These programs have been a tremendous benefit to the local community through the fostering of a culture of innovation, which is so crucial in today's ever-changing economy.

During World War II, technical classes were offered to region plant workers, which was part of a national defense training program. Purdue decided to continue to offer courses in Northwest Indiana after the war ended, and in 1946, classes were held at various locations throughout the area. Over time, two campuses emerged, with some 77,000 degrees earned by graduates.

Currently, Purdue Northwest offers more than seventy state-of-the-art programs to approximately 13,350 students. Additionally, innovative and passionate staff, faculty, department heads, and leadership, including former chancellors and the current chancellor, Dr. Thomas L. Keon, are held in the highest esteem for their unwavering dedication, which has contributed to the success of Purdue University Northwest. Their expertise in the field of education has been a remarkable asset to the region, and their tireless efforts have enhanced the lives of Purdue University Northwest's many students and alumni.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Purdue University Northwest on the first anniversary of Founders Day. The merger has improved educational opportunities for the institution's current students